

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A structure for securing a cup support element in a seat cushion of vehicle seat, in which said cup support element includes a body portion and a slide support member slidably supported in said body portion, said slide support member being designed to supportively receive drinking cups, glasses, and the like, comprising:

a wire frame means provided in said seat cushion; and

a protection plate fixedly attached to said body portion of said cup support element so as to embracingly cover said particular body portion; said protection plate means having a plurality of securing pieces projected therefrom;

said securing pieces of said protection plate being of a rigid yet bendable property and securely connected with said wire framework means, thereby securing said cup support element in said seat cushion.

2. The structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said protection plate is formed from a rigid metallic material and has a reinforcing bead formed thereon.

3. The structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said protection plate has a pair of lateral walls, and wherein said plurality of securing pieces are integrally provided with each of said pair of lateral walls in such a manner as to project horizontally and outwardly therefrom.

4. The structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said seat cushion has an upper side on which a passenger is to sit, wherein said body portion of said cup support element has: an upper wall and a pair of lateral walls, wherein said protection plate is so formed to have a main portion and a pair of lateral portions extending vertically from said main portion, wherein said plurality of securing pieces are integral with each of said pair of lateral portions of said protection plate so as to project horizontally and outwardly therefrom, and wherein said protection plate is securely attached to said body portion of said cup support element, such that the main portion thereof covers the upper wall of said cup support element body portion,

while the pair of lateral portions thereof cover the respective said pair of lateral walls of said cup support element body portion.

5. The structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said seat cushion has a foam padding provided therein, wherein said wire frame means is embedded integrally in said foam padding, wherein the structure further comprises a space defined in a predetermined region of said foam padding, and wherein, in said space, said securing pieces of said protection plate are securely connected with a portion of said wire frame means.

6. The structure according to Claim 5, wherein said wire frame means comprises: a wire frame assembly having a configuration that substantially constitutes a contour of said seat cushion; and a wire sub-assembly formed integrally in said wire frame assembly, and wherein said wire sub-assembly corresponds to said portion of said wire frame means and is disposed in said foam padding at a point adjacent to said space, and wherein said securing pieces of said protection plate are securely connected with said wire sub-assembly.

7. The structure according to Claim 5, wherein said seat cushion has: an upper side on which a passenger is to sit; a lateral side vertically extending from said upper side; and a bottom side opposite to said upper side; wherein said foam padding has: an upper wall corresponding to said upper side of said seat cushion; a lateral wall corresponding to said lateral side of said seat cushion; and a bottom wall corresponding to said bottom side of said seat cushion, and wherein said space is formed by cutting away local regions of said lateral and bottom walls of said foam padding, excepting said upper wall.

8. The structure according to Claim 6, wherein said wire sub-assembly includes at least two wire members connected with said wire frame assembly, and wherein said securing pieces of said protection plate are securely connected with said at least two wire members.